

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 10 JUN 49

SUBJECT Communist Candidate for Mayor of Guayaquil

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Local Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador, with the approval of the Regional Committee, has decided that Manuel Arenas Coello will be the candidate of the Alianza Popular for mayor of Guayaquil. The decision to nominate Party member Arenas, at present a city councilman, for the mayoralty candidacy was made recently by the Communists after Arenas had assured Regional Committee members that he was now a legally naturalized Ecuadoran citizen. Arenas, a native of Peru, until recently had not obtained all the documents necessary for naturalization.
2. On 4 April 1949 the Coastal Regional Committee of the PCE put out a confidential bulletin to local cell leaders and Local Committee chiefs, saying that they were studying the matter of backing Arenas as the Alianza candidate. For a time it was known that the Communists attempted to induce Antonio Moya, a non-Communist leftist, to accept the Alianza candidacy, but upon advice from friends Moya decided to decline the Communist invitation. It was after Moya's refusal that Arenas, a long-time Communist Party member, obtained the Party's nomination.
3. The Communists, confident of winning the city election, have said that if they can securely establish the Alianza Popular with the people during the summer months, it is almost certain, particularly if several candidates are entered, that the Communist man will receive a majority of the votes.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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